AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Before the "TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION" on page 1 of the specification, add the following:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a national stage application, filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371, of International Patent Application PCT/US2004/27076, which was filed on August 19, 2004, and the international phase of which has lapsed. This application also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application for Patent 60/496,245, which was filed on August 19, 2003, and which has lapsed.

At page 31, amend Table 1 as indicated on the following page:

Gene	Accession	Forward primer	Reverse primer	Taqman® probe
		AACCCACGAATGCACTATCCA	CGGACATACCGAGGGACATG	CCTTTACTTACACCCCGCCAGTCACCTC
Human <i>Kunx2</i>	NM 004348	SEQ ID NO:14	SEQ ID NO:15	<u>SEQ ID NO:16</u>
		CCCCACCTCTTGCAACCA	CCTTCTAGCTGCCCACTATTTCC	CCAGCATGTCTTGCCCCAAGATGTCTA
Human \(\sigma sx\)	AF47/981	SEQ ID NO:17	SEQ ID NO:18	SEQ ID NO:19
		CCGTGGCAACTCTATCTTTGG	GCCATACAGGATGGCAGTGA	CATGCTGAGTGACAGACAAGAAGCCC
Human Alp	XM 001826	SEQ ID NO:20	SEQ ID NO:21	SEQ ID NO:22
		AGCAAAGGTGCAGCCTTTGT	GCGCCTGGGTCTCTTCACT	CCTCGCTGCCCTCCTGCTTGG
Human 'Sm	NM 000/11	SEQ ID NO:23	SEQ ID NO:24	SEQ ID NO:25
-	20100	AACGAAGAAAGCGAAGCAGAA	TCTGCCTCTGTGCTGTTGGT	AAAACGAACAAGGCATAAACGGCACCA
Human <i>Esf</i>	NM 00496/	SEQ ID NO:26	<u>SEQ ID NO:27</u>	SEQ ID NO:28
		AAATGCCTCCGCTGTTATGAA	GCTCCGGCCCACAAATCT	AACCAAGTAGCCAGGTTCAACGATCT
Mouse Kunx2	NM 009820	SEQ ID NO:29	SEQ ID NO:30	SEQ ID NO:31
	120120	CCCTTCTCAAGCACCAATGG	AGGGTGGGTAGTCATTTGCATAG	CAGGCAGTCCTCCGGCCCC
Mouse 'sxx'	NM_130458	SEQ ID NO:32	SEQ ID NO:33	SEQ ID NO:34
		CCGATGGCACACCTGCTT	GAGGCATACGCCATCACATG	CGGCGTCCATGAGCAGAACTACATTCC
Mouse Alp	XM 124424	SEQ ID NO:35	SEQ ID NO:36	SEQ ID NO:37
	XXX 002541	CCGGGAGCAGTGTGAGCTTA	AGGCGGTCTTCAAGCCATACT	CCCTGCTTGTGACGAGCTATCAG
Mouse Con	NM 00/541	SEQ ID NO:38	SEQ ID NO:39	SEQ ID NO:40
,		ACCCCAAGCACAGACTTTTGA	CTTTCTGCATCTCCAGCCTTCT	TTAGCGGCACTCCAACTGCCC
Mouse Esp	L 20232	SEQ ID NO:41	SEQ ID NO:42	SEQ ID NO:43

able 1